

St. Martin Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	St. Martin	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	21.5%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	28.0%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	8.6%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,554	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.6%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	6.2%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	5.6	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	88.5%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	85.6%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	11.2%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	16.7%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	308.7	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	175.0	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	0.0	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	260.3	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	217.6	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	42.7	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	50.8	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	5.9	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.4	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 4	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	24.7%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	28.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	71.6%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.6%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	76.0%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United States, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

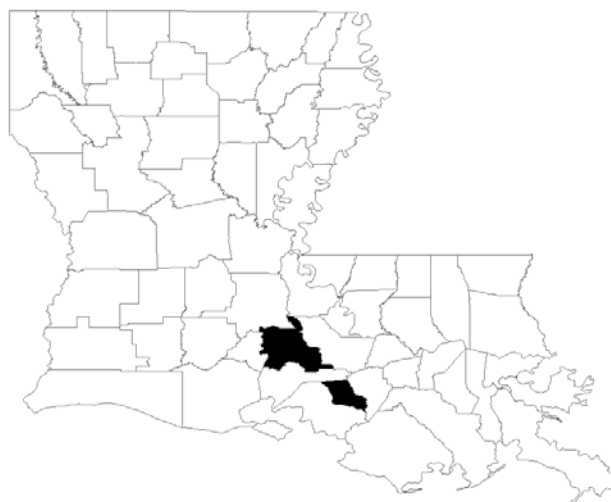
Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

St. Martin Parish was established as Attakapas Parish on March 31, 1807. It received its present name on April 17, 1811. It is in the center of the historic Teche country, the land of the Acadians and Evangeline. Even before the Acadians settled in this section, a “post” existed at St. Martinville. A number of officers of noble French and Spanish families remained after their appointments expired. Thus, for many years St. Martinville was the center of considerable culture. At one time, it was a summer resort for New Orleans society, and became known as “Le Petit



Paris de la Louisiane.” The same “Joie de vivre” exists today. St. Martin Parish, home to the world’s largest freshwater river basin, the Atchafalaya Basin, provides nearly every type of outdoor recreational activity imaginable. Boat tours provide a close-up view of life in Acadiana. Bayou Teche meanders through Arnaudville, Cecilia, Breaux Bridge, Parks and St. Martinville, each with a beautiful Catholic church and above-ground cemetery. Breaux Bridge is proud to be known as the “Crawfish Capital of the World,” and swells to 100,000 plus during the first full weekend in May as visitors join in the fun. St. Martinville, the parish seat, is the third oldest town in Louisiana. Here, you will find many buildings and homes with beautiful architecture and the Evangeline Oak made famous in Longfellow’s poem of Evangeline and Gabriel.

Parish Seat³ St. Martinville

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- St. Martinville
- Breaux Bridge

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	48,583
2003 (estimate)	49,911
2000 population by Race	
White.....	65.9%
African-American	32.0%
Some other race.....	2.1%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	0.8%
2000 population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.7%
5-14	16.6%
15-17	5.2%
18-19	3.1%
20-24	6.5%
25-64	50.8%
65 & over	10.1%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	5ft.
Land area in square miles	740
Water area in square miles	76.6

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual	64°
January	60°
July	90°
Annual average rainfall	59 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

St. Martin Parish

Civilian.....	23,102
Employed	20,827
Unemployed.....	2,275
Unemployment.....	9.8%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Louisiana State University and A&M College
- Southern University and A&M College
- Nicholls State University
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.